

produce legislation that will achieve this level of savings.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 1, 1993.

**Nomination for Posts at the
Department of the Air Force**

November 1, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Edwin A. Deagle, Jr., to be Under Secretary of the Air Force and Clark G. Fiester to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

"Edwin Deagle and Clark Fiester have each spent the better part of his life in watching out for our Nation's security. They are well prepared to continue that work at the Pentagon," said the President.

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

**Nomination for an Assistant
Secretary of Commerce**

November 1, 1993

The President announced his intention today to nominate research and international trade consultant Sue E. Eckert to be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

"Sue Eckert brings a wide range of both public and private sector experience in international trade to this position," said the President. "That experience will be invaluable as we seek to expand our country's exports to create more jobs here at home."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

**Nomination for Under Secretary of
Energy**

November 1, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Charles B. Curtis to be the Under Secretary of Energy. After he is confirmed, he will assume management responsibility for science and technology programs, weapons and waste cleanup programs, and energy policy matters assigned by the Secretary.

"There are few Americans who can match Charles Curtis' governmental experience or his knowledge of energy policy," said the President. "He will be an outstanding addition to Secretary O'Leary's team at the Energy Department."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

**Nomination for Ambassador to the
Republic of Djibouti**

November 1, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate career Foreign Service officer Martin L. Cheshes to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti.

"Over his nearly 30-year career in the Foreign Service, Martin Cheshes has served his country well. I expect him to continue to do so during his tenure in Djibouti," said the President.

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

**Exchange With Reporters Prior to a
Meeting With James and Sarah
Brady**

November 2, 1993

Crime and Handgun Legislation

Q. Jim, is the crime bill going to pass?

The President. He asked you. Yes, it's going to pass. What do you think, Jim? He wants to know if the crime bill's going to pass

and the Brady bill. That's what Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press] asked you.

Mr. Brady. Well, this is your house, so I'll defer to you, sir.

The President. I already said yes. You answer it.

Q. In that case, Mr. President, I'm wondering if you could tell us what the Brady bill would do in urban areas, like the District of Columbia, where the guns that kill people are not sold so much in shops but more on the street, where there's not much of a waiting—

The President. But they all do come out of regular manufacturers, and they come into the country. And what the Brady bill would do, it would make uniform the losing battle a lot of States are fighting now, because they're all alone, to at least check those people who do buy from registered gun dealers. And there are an enormous number of people who do have criminal backgrounds, who have mental health problems, who don't even meet any kind of age requirement. We would be able to check all that uniformly, nationwide. We find now that in a lot of States that have pretty strict gun laws, an enormous percentage of the guns that are confiscated by law enforcement officials every year come from other States that don't.

So we do have some evidence that these laws work, but it's not the end-all and be-all. We've got a couple hundred million guns out there. There are a lot of other problems that we need to deal with in terms of minors in possession, in terms of assault weapons, in terms of the way the permitting process works for Federal arms dealers.

But the Brady bill is the first step. And we are going to pass it this year, I believe, because the American people finally have heard the long call of Jim and Sarah Brady. They've been out here on this for years and years and years, oftentimes alone with no support. And finally, thanks to the leadership of the Members of Congress who are here and others, we're going to be able to put it over.

Q. Does it go far enough?

Q. [Inaudible]—enough votes—

The President. To pass it? I believe we clearly have the votes to pass it if we can get it to the floor. Mr. Schumer got it out

of the House subcommittee last week, and we're hoping that the House committee will mark it up this week. Senator Biden's going to bring it up separate from the crime bill so that no one will be able to hide behind other issues in trying to find clever ways to filibuster it. And I compliment him on that. And I just believe that the time has come.

And you read all these stories, like the story that was in the Washington Post yesterday of the children planning for their funerals. I think it's going to be very difficult for the Congress to justify continued inaction on what millions of Americans believe is the number one problem in their lives.

Q. [Inaudible]—on the Newsday report saying that—[inaudible]—campaign?

The President. First of all, we did nothing improper, and I have nothing to say about it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:10 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Former White House Press Secretary James Brady was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan. His wife, Sarah, is head of Handgun Control, Inc. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on Endorsements of the North American Free Trade Agreement

November 2, 1993

Thank you very much, President Carter, Mr. Vice President, all the distinguished people who have spoken here today.

I would like to begin by making two observations. First of all, after hearing what has been said, I'm pretty proud to be an American today. And I think all of you should be, too. Secondly, I have been sent an extra-terrestrial telegram stating, "I, too, am for NAFTA," signed Otto von Bismarck. [Laughter]

You know, it is something of note that every living President, Secretary of State, Secretaries of Defense, national security advisers, Secretaries of Commerce, leaders of the Federal Reserve, distinguished contributors to the American spirit like John Gardner and Father Hesburgh and other great Amer-